

ATTACHMENT B – ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND DEFINITIONS

This Attachment spells out acronyms and abbreviations and defines certain phrases used in this Order.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

CEDEN	California Environmental Data Exchange Network
C.F.R.	Code of Federal Regulations
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
Regional Water Board	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SMARTS	Stormwater Multiple Application and Report Tracking System
State Water Board	State Water Resources Control Board
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
U.S. EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
Water Code	California Water Code

Definitions

Adaptive Management. An ongoing iterative process to evaluate, modify, and manage best management practices to ensure that the eventual goals of compliance with water quality standards, such as waste load allocations, are met.

Areas of Special Biological Significance. Thirty-four State Water Board-designated areas along the California coast that require special protection to maintain natural ocean water quality.

Basin Plans. Regional Water Quality Control Board-adopted water quality control plans that serve as the principal set of regulations for protection of water quality in the specific region. Basin Plans designate beneficial uses to water bodies within the region, water quality objectives to protect the beneficial uses, and the implementation program to maintain those objectives.

Batch Plant. A processing plant where concrete, asphalt or other batch materials are prepared and mixed prior to transport to a construction site. Batch plants are industrial activities as defined in 40 C.F.R. section 122.26(b)(14)(iii) and are regulated under the State Water Resources Control Board statewide NPDES Permit for Discharges of Stormwater from Industrial Activities (Industrial Stormwater General Permit).

Beneficial Uses. Uses of water and of water bodies that are protected against water quality degradation including but not limited to: municipal and domestic supply (MUN), agricultural supply (AGR), cold freshwater habitat (COLD), commercial and sport fishing (COMM), domestic supply (MUN), estuarine habitat (EST), freshwater replenishment (FRESH), groundwater recharge (GWR), industrial service supply (IND), marine habitat (MAR), and other uses.

Best Management Practices. Structural or non-structural controls, methods, measures, or practices designed and implemented to reduce or prevent pollutant discharges in stormwater to receiving waters. Best management practices include but are not limited to the following:

Institutional Controls. Non-structural best management practices that may include street sweeping, sidewalk trash bins, collection of trash, anti-litter educational and outreach programs, producer take-back for packaging, and ordinances.

Non-Structural Best Management Practices. Non-structural best management practices focus on the prevention of pollution generation, and may include institutional changes, education, ordinance development, low impact development, and source control.

Post-Construction Best Management Practices. Structural or non-structural best management practices that are implemented after construction is complete to capture, reduce, or prevent the release of pollutants in post-construction stormwater runoff.

Source Control Best Management Practices. Schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, managerial practices, and other operational practices that prevent stormwater pollution to receiving waters by reducing the potential for contamination at the pollutant source.

Structural Best Management Practices. Stationary and permanent structures that are designed, constructed, operated, and maintained to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants in stormwater to receiving waters, or to mitigate the adverse impact of stormwater runoff into receiving waters. Structural best management practices include structural treatment control processes as defined below.

Treatment Control Best Management Practices. Engineered systems designed to reduce or remove pollutants in stormwater using physical, biological, and/or chemical processes, including but not limited to gravity settling of particulate pollutants, filtration, biological uptake, and media absorption. For example, a treatment control best management practice may include the capturing, infiltrating, and reusing of stormwater runoff.

California Ocean Plan. The statewide water quality control plan for California near-coastal waters adopted by the State Water Board. The California Ocean Plan serves as statewide regulations to protect the beneficial uses and water quality of ocean water, adjacent coastal water bodies, and Areas of Special Biological Significance.

California Toxics Rule. United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) promulgated water quality criteria for priority pollutants applicable to California inland surface waters, enclosed bays, estuaries and ocean waters that are waters of the United States. (40 C.F.R. section 131.38).

Catch Basin. An engineered subsurface structure that collects and diverts stormwater runoff to a storm sewer system. The structure is designed to collect and prevent obstructive material from entering the storm sewer system.

Construction Activity. Any construction or demolition activity, clearing, grading, grubbing, or excavation or any other activity that results in a land disturbance. Construction does not include emergency construction activities required to immediately protect public health and safety or routine maintenance to maintain original line and grade, hydraulic capacity, or original purpose of the facility.

Cooperative Agreement. Cooperative agreements include but are not limited to:

Coordinated Integrated Monitoring Program. Agreements through which multiple entities form unified monitoring programs for a watershed or watersheds.

Cooperative Implementation Agreements. Agreements through which implementing partners, such as local municipalities, government agencies, tribes, or non-governmental agencies implement treatment of stormwater runoff.

Other Agreements. Other agreements for watershed monitoring, best management practices installation, or construction of large structural best management practices projects.

Cut and Fill. The process of (1) moving earth by excavating part of an area, and (2) placing earth to create embankments or raise area elevations.

Department Facility. A maintenance facility, non-maintenance facility, highway facility, industrial facility, or vehicle maintenance facility.

Highway Facility. Linear facilities designed to carry vehicles and pedestrians, including freeways, highways, and expressways. Support infrastructure (including bridges, toll plazas, inspection and weigh stations, sound walls, retaining walls, culverts, vegetated slopes, shoulders, intersections, off ramps, on ramps, over passes, lights, signal lights, gutters, and guard rails) is considered a highway facility only when accompanied by an increase in highway impervious surface.

Industrial Facility. A collection of industrial processes discharging stormwater associated with industrial activity within the property boundary or operational unit.

Maintenance Facility. A facility under Department ownership or control that contains fueling areas, maintenance stations or yards, waste storage or disposal facilities, wash racks, equipment, vehicle storage, materials, or storage areas.

Non-Highway Facility. Any facility not meeting the definition of a highway facility, including rest stops, park and ride facilities, maintenance stations, vista points, warehouses, laboratories, and office buildings.

Non-Maintenance Facility. Facilities including, but not limited to, laboratories and office buildings used exclusively for administrative functions.

Discharge. When used without qualification, discharge means the discharge of a pollutant.

Direct Discharge. Any discharge from the municipal separate storm sewer system that does not meet the definition of an indirect discharge.

Indirect Discharge. Any discharge from the municipal separate storm sewer system that is conveyed to the receiving water through 300 feet or more of an unlined ditch or channel as measured between the discharge point from the outlet of the municipal separate storm sewer system and the receiving water.

Discharge of a Pollutant. The addition of any pollutant or combination of pollutants to waters of the United States from any point source, or any addition of any pollutant or combination of pollutants to the waters of the contiguous zone or the ocean from any point source other than a vessel or other floating craft which is being used as a means of transportation. The term includes additions of pollutants to waters of the United States from: surface runoff which is collected or channeled by man; discharges through pipes, sewers, or other conveyances owned by a State, municipality, or other person which do not lead to a treatment works; and discharges through pipes, sewers, or other conveyances, leading into privately owned treatment works. (40 C.F.R. section 122.2(b)).

District Annual Workplans. District-specific workplans prepared by each Department district with descriptions of activities and projects for the upcoming year necessary to comply with the requirement of this Order.

Drainage Inlet. A location where stormwater runoff enters a storm sewer system.

Effluent. Any discharge from a municipal separate storm sewer system.

Emergency. Any sudden, unexpected occurrence, involving a clear and imminent danger, demanding immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss of, or damage to, life, health, property, or essential public services. "Emergency" includes such occurrences as fire, flood, earthquake, other soil or geologic movements, and occurrences such as riot, accident, or sabotage.

Erosion. The diminishing or wearing away of land due to wind or water. Often, eroded material (silt or sediment) becomes a pollutant in stormwater runoff.

Existing Stormwater Outfalls. When used in reference to Areas of Special Biological Significance, outfalls that were constructed or under construction prior to January 1, 2005.

eRule. The U.S. EPA Electronic Reporting Rule that modernizes reporting under the Clean Water Act. The rule requires entities regulated under the Clean Water Act to report information electronically instead of filing paper reports. The rule also requires that regulatory authorities share data electronically with U.S. EPA.

Facility Pollution Prevention Plan. A plan that describes a facility's activities and implemented best management practices to reduce or eliminate the discharge of pollutants in stormwater runoff.

Full Capture System. A treatment control, or series of treatment controls, including but not limited to, a multi-benefit project or a low-impact development control that traps all particles that are 5-millimeters or greater, and has a design treatment capacity that is either:

1. Of not less than the peak flow rate, Q , resulting from a one-year, one-hour, storm in the sub-drainage area, or
2. Appropriately sized to, and designed to carry at least the same flows as, the corresponding storm drain.

[Rational equation is used to compute the peak flow rate: $Q = C \cdot I \cdot A$, where Q = design flow rate (cubic feet per second); C = runoff coefficient (dimensionless); I = design rainfall intensity (inches per hour, as determined per the rainfall isohyetal map specific to each region, and A = sub-drainage area (acres).]

Full Capture System Equivalency. The trash load that would be reduced if full capture systems were installed, operated, and maintained for all storm drains that capture runoff from the relevant areas of land. The full capture system equivalency is a trash load reduction target that the Department quantifies by using an approach, and technically acceptable and defensible assumptions and methods for applying the approach, subject to the approval of State Water Board Executive Director.

Illegal Connection, Illicit Discharge, and Illegal Dumping.

Illegal Connection. Any conveyance that is connected to a municipal storm sewer system without authorization by local, state, or federal statutes, ordinances, codes, or regulations.

Illicit Discharge. Any discharge to a municipal separate storm sewer system that is not composed entirely of stormwater except discharges pursuant to a NPDES permit and discharges resulting from fire-fighting activities.

Illegal Dumping. Disposal of trash and other wastes in non-designated areas within the Department's right-of-way, properties, or facilities, intentionally or unintentionally, that may contribute to stormwater pollution.

Impervious Cover or Surface. A surface that cannot effectively absorb or infiltrate rainfall, such as sidewalks, rooftops, roads, and parking lots.

Incidental Runoff. Unintended small amounts (volume) of runoff from landscape irrigation, such as minimal over-spray from sprinklers that escapes the irrigated area. Water leaving an irrigated area is not considered incidental if it is due to improper (e.g. during a precipitation event) or excessive application, if it is due to intentional overflow or application, or if it is due to negligence. Leaks and other discharges (e.g. broken sprinkler heads) are not considered incidental if not corrected within 72 hours of learning of the discharge or if the discharge exceeds 1000 gallons.

Land Use. How land is managed or used by humans (e.g., residential and industrial development, roads, mining, timber harvesting, agriculture, grazing).

Load Allocation. The portion of a receiving water's loading capacity that is attributed either to one of its existing or future nonpoint sources of pollution or to natural background sources. Load allocations are best estimates of the loading, which can range from reasonably accurate estimates to gross allotments, depending on the availability of data and appropriate techniques for predicting the loading. (40 C.F.R. section 130.2(g)).

Low Impact Development. Systems and practices that use or mimic natural processes that result in the infiltration, evapotranspiration, or use of stormwater to protect water quality and aquatic habitat with the goal of mimicking or replicating the pre-project hydrologic regime using design techniques to create a functionally equivalent hydrologic site design. Hydrologic functions of storage, infiltration and ground water recharge, as well as the volume and frequency of discharges are maintained through the use of integrated and distributed micro-scale storm water retention and detention areas, reduction of impervious surfaces, and the lengthening of runoff flow paths and flow time. Other strategies include the preservation/protection of environmentally sensitive site features such as riparian buffers, wetlands, steep slopes, mature trees, flood plains, woodlands, and highly permeable soils.

Maximum Extent Practicable. The minimum required performance standard for implementation of municipal storm water management programs to reduce pollutants in storm water. Clean Water Act section 402(p)(3)(B)(iii) requires that municipal permits "shall require controls to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent practicable, including management practices, control techniques and system, design and engineering methods, and such other provisions as the Administrator or the State determines appropriate for the control of such pollutants."

"Maximum extent practicable" is the cumulative effect of implementing, evaluating, and making corresponding changes to a variety of technically appropriate and economically feasible best management practices, ensuring that the most appropriate controls are implemented in the most effective manner. To achieve the maximum extent practicable standard, municipalities must employ whatever best management practices are technically feasible and are not cost-prohibitive. Reducing pollutants to the maximum extent practicable means choosing effective best management practices and rejecting applicable best management practices only where other effective best management practices will serve the same purpose, or the best management practices would not be technically feasible, or the costs would be prohibitive. A final determination of whether a municipality has reduced pollutants to the maximum extent practicable can only be made by the State or Regional Water Boards.

Method Detection Limit. Minimum concentration of a substance that can be reported with 99 percent confidence that the analyte concentration is greater than zero and is determined from analysis of a sample in a given matrix containing the analyte.

Minimum Level. Concentration at which the entire analytical system gives a recognizable signal and acceptable calibration point. The minimum level is the concentration in a sample that is equivalent to the concentration of the lowest calibration standard analyzed by a specific analytical procedure, assuming all method-specified sample weights, volumes, and processing steps have been followed.

Multi-Benefit Project. A treatment control project designed to achieve any benefits per section 10562(d) of the Water Code. Examples include projects to infiltrate, recharge or store stormwater for beneficial reuse; develop or enhance habitat and open space through stormwater and non-stormwater management; and reduce stormwater and non-stormwater runoff volume.

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System. A conveyance or system of conveyances (including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, or storm drains) that is (1) owned or operated by a state, city, town, village, or other public entity that discharges to waters of the United States; (2) designed or used to collect or convey stormwater; (3) not a combined sewer; and (4) not part of a publicly owned treatment works.

Natural Ocean Water Quality. The water quality that is required to sustain marine ecosystems and is without apparent human influence.

New Impervious Surface. The total impervious surface area after completion of a project minus the total impervious surface before the start of the project. Also see the definition of Redevelopment.

New Contribution of Waste. When used in reference to Areas of Special Biological Significance, any addition of waste beyond what would have occurred as of January 1, 2005.

New Development. Any newly constructed facility, street, road, highway, or contiguous road surface installed as part of a street, road, or highway project within the Department's right-of-way.

Non-Department Activities and Projects. Third party activities that are primarily controlled by encroachment permits, leases, and rental agreements. They include both construction and non-construction activities.

Non-Stormwater. Discharges that are not induced by precipitation and are not composed entirely of stormwater. Non-stormwater discharges include process water, air conditioner condensate, non-contact cooling water, vehicle wash water, concrete washout water, paint wash water, irrigation water, pipe testing water, lawn watering overspray, hydrant flushing, and firefighting activities.

Nonpoint Source. Any source of water pollution that is not released through a discrete conveyance but originates from dispersed sources over a relatively large area. Nonpoint sources can be divided into source activities related to either land or water use, including failing septic tanks, animal agriculture, forest practices, and urban and rural runoff.

Nuisance. Includes but not limited to the following requirements: (1) is injurious to health, or is indecent or offensive to the senses, or an obstruction to the free use of property, so as to interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property; (2) affects at the same time an entire community or neighborhood, or any considerable number of persons, although the extent of the annoyance or damage inflicted upon individuals may be unequal; and (3) occurs during, or as a result of, the treatment or disposal of wastes. (Water Code section 13050(m)).

Pesticide. Any substance used for defoliating plants, regulating plant growth, or for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest that may infest or be detrimental to vegetation, man, animals, or households, or present in any agricultural or nonagricultural environment whatsoever. The family of pesticides includes herbicides, insecticides, rodenticides, fungicides, algicides, and bactericides.

Algicide. A pesticide used to kill and prevent the growth of algae.

Bactericide. A pesticide used to control or destroy bacteria.

Fungicide. A pesticide used to control or destroy fungi on food or grain crops.

Herbicide. A pesticide designed to control or kill plants, weeds, or grasses.

Insecticide. A pesticide used to kill or prevent the growth of insects.

Rodenticide. A pesticide or other agent used to kill rats and other rodents or to prevent them from damaging food, crops, or forage.

pH. A measure of the degree of acidity or alkalinity in a water sample.

Point Source. Any discernible, confined, and discrete conveyance, including but not limited to, any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, concentrated animal feeding operation, landfill leachate collection system, vessel or other floating craft from which pollutants are or may be discharged.

Pollutant. Includes conventional pollutants (biological oxygen demand, pH, total suspended solids, fecal coliform) (Clean Water Act 304(a)(4)); oil and grease (44 Federal Register 44501); 65 toxic pollutants (40 C.F.R. section 401.15); 126 priority pollutants (40 C.F.R. section 424, Appendix A); and dredged spoil, solid waste, incinerator residue, sewage, garbage, sewage sludge, munitions, chemical wastes, biological materials, radioactive materials (except those regulated under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.)), heat, wrecked or discarded equipment, rock, sand, cellar dirt and industrial, municipal, and agricultural waste discharged into water. (Clean Water Act section 502(c)).

Pollutants of Concern. Pollutants in a discharge with potential to cause a condition of pollution or nuisance due to the discharge of excessive amounts, proximity to receiving waters, or the properties of the pollutant. Pollutants that impair waterbodies listed under Clean Water Act section 303(d) are pollutants of concern.

Pollution. An alteration of the quality of the waters of the state by waste to a degree which unreasonably affects either of the following: (1) the waters for beneficial uses or (2) facilities which serve those beneficial uses. (Water Code section 13050(l)(1)).

Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. The part of the Water Code that governs water quality regulation in California, established to protect water quality and beneficial uses. It applies to surface water, groundwater, and wetlands, and point source and nonpoint sources of pollution.

Portland Cement Concrete or Asphalt Concrete Grindings: Pulverized or ground particles of Portland cement concrete or asphalt concrete.

Priority land uses. Developed sites, facilities, or uses (i.e., not simply zoned land uses) within a municipal separate stormwater sewer system permittee's jurisdiction from which discharges of Trash are regulated by the Trash Provisions as follows:

Commercial. Land uses where the primary activities on the developed parcels involve the sale or transfer of goods or services to consumers (e.g., business or professional buildings, shops, restaurants, theaters, vehicle repair shops, etc.).

High-Density Residential. Land uses with at least ten (10) developed dwelling units/acre.

Industrial. Land uses where the primary activities on the developed parcels involve product manufacture, storage, or distribution (e.g., manufacturing businesses, warehouses, equipment storage lots, junkyards, wholesale businesses, distribution centers, or building material sales yards).

Mixed Urban. Land uses where high-density residential, industrial, and/or commercial land uses predominate collectively (i.e., are intermixed).

Public Transportation Stations. Sites where public transit agencies' vehicles load or unload passengers or goods (e.g., bus stations and stops).

Project Limit. Expressed in latitude/longitude or milepost markers along the right-of-way of a project. For east-west oriented projects, the limits are the eastern and western boundaries of the project. For north-south oriented projects, the limits are the north and south boundaries of the project.

Reach. A section of a stream or river along which similar hydrologic conditions exist, such as discharge, depth, area, and slope. It can also be the length of a stream or river (with varying conditions) between two stream gages, or a length of river for which the characteristics are well described by readings at a single stream gage. In practical use, a reach is just any length of a stream or river. The term is used by hydrologists when referring to a small section of a stream or river rather than its entire length.

Redevelopment. The creation, addition, or replacement of impervious surface on an already developed site. Replacement of impervious surfaces includes any activity that removes impervious materials and exposes the underlying soil or pervious subgrade.

Redevelopment includes the expansion of a building footprint, road widening, the addition or replacement of a structure, and creation or addition of impervious surfaces.

Redevelopment does include replacement of existing roadway surfaces where the underlying soil or pervious subgrade is exposed during construction. Replaced impervious surfaces of this type shall be considered "new impervious surfaces" for purposes of determining the applicability of post construction treatment controls as provided in Attachment C of this Order.

Redevelopment does not include (1) trenching and resurfacing associated with utility work; (2) pavement grinding and resurfacing of existing roadways; (3) construction of new sidewalks, pedestrian ramps, or bike lanes on existing roadways; (4) new pavement underneath existing guard rails; or (5) routine replacement of damaged pavement such as pothole repair or replacement of short, non-contiguous sections of roadway.

Roadway. Any road within the Department's right-of-way.

Routine Maintenance. Activities intended to maintain the original line and grade, hydraulic capacity, or original purpose of a facility. Routine maintenance does not include replacement of existing roadway surfaces where the underlying soil or pervious subgrade is exposed.

Right-of-Way. Real property that is either owned or controlled by the Department or subject to a property right of the Department. Right-of-way that is in current use is referred to as operating right-of-way.

Sediment. Soil, sand, and minerals washed from land into water, usually after rain.

Significant Trash Generating Areas. All locations or facilities within the Department's jurisdiction where trash accumulates in substantial amounts, such as (1) highway on- and off-ramps in high density residential, commercial, and industrial land uses (as such land uses are defined under priority land uses); (2) rest areas and park-and-rides; (3) State highways in commercial and industrial land uses (as such land uses are defined under priority land uses); (4) mainline highway segments to be identified by the Department through pilot studies or surveys.

Slope Lateral Drainage. Horizontal drains placed in hillside embankments to intercept groundwater and direct it away from slopes to provide stability.

Spill. Sudden release of a potential pollutant to the environment, including pollutants such as sewage, hazardous waste, priority pollutants, pesticides, oils, and petroleum.

Standard Urban Stormwater Mitigation Plan. A design manual that designates the best management practices that must be used in specific development and redevelopment categories.

Stormwater. Stormwater runoff, snowmelt runoff, and surface runoff and drainage, as defined in 40 C.F.R. section 122.26(b)(13).

Stormwater Multiple Application and Report Tracking System (SMARTS). A platform where dischargers, regulators, and the public can enter, manage, and view stormwater data including permit registration documents, compliance, and monitoring data associated with California's Stormwater General Permits.

Stormwater Runoff. The portion of precipitation that does not naturally percolate into the ground or evaporate, but flows via overland flow, interflow, channels, or pipes.

Stream Crossing and Fish Passage Projects. Stream crossing and fish passage projects remove barriers in order to provide the ability for aquatic organisms, adult fish, and juvenile fish to safely move upstream and downstream. The manual, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual, XII-1, was published by Fish Passage Design and Implementation in July 2009.

Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program. The State Water Board's monitoring, assessment, and reporting program for ambient surface water.

Threshold Drainage Area. Area draining to a location at least 20 channel widths downstream of a stream crossing (pipe, swale, culvert, or bridge) within project limits.

Threatened Noncompliance. Any planned changes in the permitted facility or activity which may result in noncompliance with permit requirements.

Total Dissolved Solids. A quantitative measure of the residual minerals dissolved in water that remain after evaporation of a solution.

Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen. The sum of organic nitrogen and total ammonia nitrogen.

Total Maximum Daily Load. The maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive while still meeting water quality standards. It is the sum of the individual waste load allocations for point sources and load allocations for nonpoint sources and natural background.

Total Maximum Daily Load Characterization Monitoring. Monitoring performed on untreated stormwater discharges from the Department's right-of-way to determine whether a discharge is a significant contributor to a total maximum daily load for the pollutant of concern.

Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon. Any mixture of hydrocarbon compounds that originally come from crude oil, such as gasoline, jet fuels, and diesel.

Total Suspended Solids. Particulates, fine material, or soil particles that remain suspended in the water column.

Toxicity. Adverse response of organisms to chemicals or physical agents ranging from mortality to physiological responses such as impaired reproduction or growth anomalies.

Toxicity Reduction Evaluation. Study conducted in a stepwise process designed to (1) identify the causative agents of effluent or ambient toxicity, (2) isolate the sources of toxicity, (3) evaluate the effectiveness of toxicity control options, and (4) confirm the reduction in toxicity.

Trash. All improperly discarded solid material from any production, manufacturing, or processing operation including, but not limited to, products, product packaging, or containers constructed of plastic, steel, aluminum, glass, paper, or other synthetic or natural materials.

Trash Provisions. Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California (Ocean Plan) to Control Trash and Amendment to Part 1 Trash Provisions of the Water Quality Control Plan for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California. The provisions establish a narrative water quality objective for trash and provide implementation requirements for permitted dischargers.

Turbidity. Murkiness or cloudiness of water.

United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). A federal agency that works to develop and enforce regulations that implement environmental laws enacted by the United States Congress. U.S. EPA is responsible for researching and setting national standards for the Stormwater Program.

Waste. Includes sewage and any and all other waste substances, liquid, solid, gaseous, or radioactive, associated with human habitation, or of human or animal origin, or from any producing, manufacturing, or processing operation, including waste placed within containers of whatever nature prior to, and for purposes of, disposal.

Waste Load Allocation. The portion of a receiving water's total maximum daily load that is allocated to one of its existing or future point sources of pollution.

Water Quality Control Plan. A designation or establishment for the waters within a specified area of all the following: the beneficial uses to be protected, water quality objectives, and a program of implementation needed for achieving water quality objectives. Plans may be adopted by the State Water Board or the Regional Water Boards.

Water Quality Objectives. The description or numeric levels of water quality elements or biological characteristics established to reasonably protect the beneficial uses of water or to prevent nuisance within a specific area. Water quality objectives may be numeric or narrative.

Water Quality Standards. Provisions of state, territorial, authorized tribal or federal law approved by U.S. EPA that describe the desired condition of a water body and the means by which that condition will be protected or achieved. Water quality standards consist of three core components: designated uses, criteria, and antidegradation requirements.

Waters of the State. Any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters, within boundaries of the state, as defined in Water Code section 13050(e).

Waters of the United States. For purposes of this Order, the term "waters of the United States" means the term as it is defined at 40 C.F.R. section 122.2.

Watershed. A drainage area or basin in which all water drains or flows toward a central collector such as a stream, river, or lake at a lower elevation.

Wetlands. Areas inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration to support, and that under normal circumstances do support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.